



## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS COMMAND

AND FORT MONMOUTH

FORT MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY 07703-5000

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

AMSEL-SF

16 DEC 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Command Winter Holiday Safety Message

1. The traditional winter holiday season is approaching and with it the anticipation of parties, gatherings with family and friends, and the joyful sights and sounds that are normally associated with this festive time of year.
2. For many servicemen and women this season will be marked by duty away from home, family and friends as they provide security for facilities in the US or combat terrorism overseas. For them, the meaning of the freedom that we enjoy and the steep cost of maintaining that freedom will be forever vividly etched in their minds.
3. As you prepare for your holiday activities please take a moment to remember those in our Armed Forces who cannot spend this holiday season in the warm comfort of their home with loved ones because they are protecting us and serving our country.
4. When planning your holiday activities keep safety in mind. Remember to follow the manufacturer's instructions when using holiday lights and decorations. Many people use candles during this season to provide a special atmosphere in their home. Candles can be delightful but also can be dangerous if not used safely. Some traditional plants used for decoration at this time of year, such as mistletoe, can be dangerous to small children and pets if parts of the plant are eaten, so use them with caution.
5. Shopping takes on a special meaning during this holiday season as we look for a special gift for that special person. Safety and personal security go hand in hand when shopping. If shopping at night try to park as close as possible to the store or mall entrance and always park in well-lit areas. Never carry more packages than you can easily manage and make sure your keys, wallets and purses are well secured.

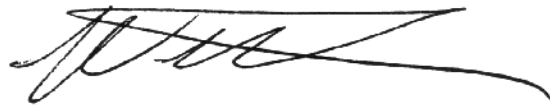
AMSEL-SF

SUBJECT: Command Winter Holiday Safety Message

6. Driving during this season poses more challenges than usual as the roads are filled with holiday shoppers and travelers who may not be paying the attention they should to driving. The weather can add its own challenges with ice and snow. Add the normal problems with driving at night, and the challenge to arrive safely at your destination becomes even greater. Remember to wear your seatbelt and require your passengers to wear theirs. Small children should be buckled up in their car seats in the rear seat. Remember, drive defensively but courteously.

7. Most holiday festivities will undoubtedly include the presence of alcoholic beverages. If you intend to drink please do not drive. Make alternate arrangements to get home, such as using a Designated Driver or taking a cab.

8. I wish you, your family and friends a joyous and safe holiday season.



WILLIAM H. RUSS  
Major General, USA  
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:  
M, O & R